

Arlington Human Rights Commission
9/12/18 -- Meeting Notes
Jefferson Cutter House, 611 Massachusetts Ave, Arlington, MA 02474
8:00-9:45 p.m.
Naomi Greenfield and David Swanson, Co-Chairs

Present: Co-Chairs Greenfield and Swanson, Commissioners Christopher Huvos, Kristina Fontanez, Sharon Grossman, William Logan, Sheri Baron, William Logan, D'ondria Maxwell, Gary Horowitz

Absent: Commissioners, Kristen Bauer, Nick Minton, Christine Carney

Co-Chair Greenfield called the meeting to order at 8:11 p.m.

- **Check-in / Meeting Roles**
 - Secretary – Sharon Grossman
 - Time-Keeper – Sheri Baron
 - Next-Stepper – Naomi Greenfield
- **Minutes Approval**
 - August Minutes – Commissioner Swanson moved to table the minutes until the October meeting; Commissioner Carlton-Gysan seconded the motion. All in favor.
- **Commissioner Update**
 - Commissioners provided their updates.
- **Citizens Open Forum**
 - There were no community members present.
- **Incident Response**
 - Mid-Year Report out on Incidents – Commissioner Greenfield reported on the collection of incidents (e.g. reports from Arlington Police Department, emails sent but not formal complaints, formal complaints). The Commission discussed the purpose of communicating this data (e.g. educate the community about incidents and the nature of them in Town as an ongoing update, the importance of putting the data into a context, etc.).
 - [Responding to Incidents Document](#) and Process – The Co-Chairs discussed the procedure that is being followed when an incident is reported to the Commission. There are continuing questions about how to complete investigations. There are supporting documents that the Co-Chairs will be distilling into checklists and protocols that will ease the investigation process.
- **Correspondence/Incidents/Complaints**
 - Housing Corporation of Arlington (HCA) Complaint – Commissioner Huvos reported on the complaint, which was discrimination on the basis of the person's disability and source of income, including his discussion with the Town Counsel Doug Heim. The Complainant felt that the HCA doubted the existence of her disability and the HCA was not attending to the

supporting documentation provided to them. Before a vote is taken, more information needs to be received from the HCA to determine whether the Complainant is being discriminated against due to a disability. Commissioner Carlton-Gysan moved to table the vote until the October meeting; Commissioner Baron seconded. All were in favor.

- Arlington List Complaint – Commissioner Baron reported on a complaint made in reference to the Arlington email list. The question of whether remarks made on the List are considered racist. In addition, Co-Chair Greenfield contacted Arlington Health & Human Services Director Christine Bongiorno regarding the List being linked on the Arlington Town website; it has been made clear on the Town website that it is a non-Town moderated list. The issue of whether the complaint is within the jurisdiction of the AHRC was discussed. CoChair Greenfield moved that the complaint is not within the jurisdiction of the AHRC; seconded by Co-Chair Swanson. All in favor.
 - i. There was discussion regarding the appropriateness of including the Arlington Email List on the Town Website since the content of the list is offensive to some protected classes.
- APD Incident – It was reported that this was not a formal complaint and a discussion about whether it would be appropriate to reach out to the target followed; it was agreed that it is not necessary at this time.

- **Community events and info**

- [Town Day Report Out](#) – Commissioner Fontanez reported on the logistics for the day, including a flyer related to upcoming events, “Hate Has No Home Here” bumper stickers and signs, and photo poster.
- Restorative Justice Event – Co-Chair Swanson reported that the event is confirmed for Saturday 10/13 at 6:30 p.m. at the Senior Center in the upstairs room. Communities for Restorative Justice, the school community and the Arlington police department have been contacted to discuss the impact of restorative justice on the community. There was a continuing conversation about the panel and topics to be discussed.
- Calendar for 2019 – Dates for upcoming meetings will be posted.

- **Sub-Committee Report Out: (9:25PM-9:35PM | 10mins.)**

- [Communications](#) Commissioner Carlton-Gysan provided a brief subcommittee update.
- [School Liaisons](#) – Commissioner Grossman moved to table this item until the October meeting; Co-Chair Swanson seconded. All in favor.

Commissioner Baron moved to adjourn, Commissioner Fontanez seconded the motion. All were in favor at 10:01 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Commissioner Grossman.